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# *License Plates and Parking Placards For Persons with Disabilities*



**Jesse White**  
Secretary of State



For nearly 25 years, the Secretary of State's office has issued special license plates that allow persons with disabilities to park in reserved parking spaces.

In 1984, the program was expanded to include special parking placards for drivers or passengers who are disabled. Eligibility requirements also were expanded to allow a greater number of qualifying individuals to get parking privileges.

Currently, qualified applicants can get a permanent parking placard, good for four years, or a temporary placard, good for up to six months at no charge.

As Secretary of State, I am aware of how important our specialized license plate and parking placard programs are in keeping persons with disabilities independent and mobile. This brochure will help you determine whether you qualify for special parking privileges and how you can obtain them.

Sincerely,

*Jesse White*

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Secretary of State

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## **Definition**

A person with disabilities is defined as: "A natural person who, as determined by a licensed physician: (1) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; (2) cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device; (3) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that his or her forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60mm/hg on room air rest; (4) uses portable oxygen; (5) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV, according to standards set by the American Heart Association; or (6) is severely limited in the person's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition."

## **Parking Privileges**

- Allows authorized vehicles to park in areas specifically reserved for persons with disabilities.
- Vehicles are exempt from parking meter fees or time limitations on parking, except at meters, signs or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.
- Plates and placards for Illinois persons with disabilities are honored nearly nationwide.
- Plates and placards do not permit vehicles to park in areas where parking is prohibited (such as "NO STOPPING" and "NO STANDING" zones, in front of or near fire hydrants, loading zones, etc.). Vehicles also are prohibited from parking in any manner that creates a traffic hazard.

*NOTE: Parking privileges apply only when the eligible individual is present, the vehicle is being used for his/her transportation, and the parking placard or plates are displayed.*

## **For More Information**

Secretary of State  
Non-Standard Plates Section  
501 S. Second Street, Room 541  
Springfield, IL 62756  
(217) 782-2434 or 785-6901 (Standard Plates)  
(217) 785-6901 (Vanity/Personalized Plates)

# License Plates

• Persons with permanent disabilities may obtain special license plates for each vehicle titled in their name.



- **Immediate family members** may obtain plates if the qualified individual does not own a vehicle and must frequently rely on an immediate family member for transportation. Family members can be issued only two sets of plates.
- **Corporations, school districts and special education cooperatives** transporting eligible persons may obtain plates by completing an affirmation form available upon request from the Non-Standard Plates Section.

*Plates may be displayed on passenger cars, vans and B-trucks weighing up to 8,000 pounds.*

## HOW TO APPLY:

Submit the following:

- 1) **Physician's certification form** – Must be completed by both the applicant and their physician. (*Forms available at most Secretary of State facilities.*)
- 2) **Current registration card or copy of title** if the vehicle is registered in applicant's name; **OR title or manufacturer's certificate of origin** if the vehicle is not registered in applicant's name.
- 3) **Application form and fee** – If current plates are valid for more than 60 days, an application for reclassification with an \$11 fee must be submitted. If plates expire within 60 days, submit a registration application or renewal form and the annual \$48 fee.
- 4) **Vanity or personalized license plates** – For information, call (217) 785-6901.

# Parking Placards



- Persons with permanent disabilities may obtain up to two parking placards in their name.
- Corporations, school districts and special education cooperatives that transport individuals may apply for placards in their name.
- Individuals with temporary disabilities not exceeding six months may have up to two placards in their name.
- The placard should be displayed by hanging it from the rearview mirror. If there is no rear-view mirror, the placard should be displayed on the dashboard or attached to the visor so it is visible through the front windshield.

## TWO TYPES OF PLACARDS:

**FOUR-YEAR** – *Teal with White Lettering* – Issued to or on behalf of those individuals whose condition is permanent.

**TEMPORARY** – *Burnt Orange with White Lettering* – Issued to those with temporary disabilities not exceeding 6 months.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- 1) Submit a **certification form** completed by **both** the applicant and their physician.\*
- 2) Submit an **affirmation form** signed by the authorized agent for corporation, school district or special education cooperative.

Forms are available at most Secretary of State facilities, or by calling toll-free (800) 252-8980.

\* This requirement is waived for those who have been issued disabled veteran or person(s) with disabilities license plates and already have a certification form on file. An Illinois Disabled Persons ID card with a 1a or 2a classification as issued by the office's Driver Services Department, or VA Form #544 and a certification form with Side B, Part 1 completed are also accepted as proof of disability.

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